

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06

ACDA-05 /076 W

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O R 171418Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1146

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, NO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: TIMING OF NORWEGIAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA

REF: STOCKHOLM 809; COPENHAGEN 508

1. NORWEGIAN PRESS REPORTED FEB. 16 THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERN-

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MENT WAS EXPECTED SOON TO FOLLOW OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES ON
RECOGNIZING MPLA. IN A CONVERSATION FEB. 17 WITH DC,

DIRGEN FOR POL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY VIBE CONFIRMED THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVT. HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER NORDICS OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS. VIBE STATED THAT SWEDEN AND DENMARK WILL OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE MPLA FEB. 18. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH THE PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AT 9 A. M. FEB. 18 TO DISCUSS THE NEXT NORWEGIAN STEP. VIBE STATED THAT UNLESS THERE WERE STRONG ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HE EXPECTED THAT THE GON WILL ALSO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO THE MPLA FEB. 18.

2. VIBE NOTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EC DISCUSSIONS IN LUXEMBOURG IN THE LAST 24 HOURS ON THE SUBJECT HAD FOUND THE PARTICIPANTS DIVIDED ON THE SUBJECT OF RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. HIS ESTIMATE WAS THAT BY THE END OF THIS WEEK HALF OF THE EC MEMBERS WILL HAVE RECOGNIZED THE MPLA.

3. DCM, NOTING THAT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, REMINDED VIBE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION HAS NOT BEEN ONE OF OPPOSITION TO THE MPLA PER SE.; HOWEVER, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE EARLY RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME MIGHT GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF REWARDING SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. VIBE REPLIED THAT THIS HAD BEEN THE DILEMMA FACING THE GON. ON THE ONE HAND IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE MPLA TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS OTHER THAN THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS. ON THE OTHER HAND NORWAY DID NOT WANT TO ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO APPEAR TO REWARD INTERVENTIONISM. VIBE ADMITTED THAT IT WAS AN ASSET TO BE ABLE TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES SINCE IT "ALLOWS US TO PACIFY CRITICS ON BOTH SIDES."

4. COMMENT: NORDIC SOLIDARITY IS ALWAYS CONVENIENT RATIONALE FOR DEFUSING POLITICAL LIABILITIES AMONG NON-SOCIALIST ELEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, STATED NORWEGIAN POSITION RE CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF ANY COUNTRY--ONE FACTION DEMONSTRABLY IN CONTROL OF TERRITORY--PROVIDES ADDITIONAL RATIONALE FOR PRESENT GOVERNMENT DECISION.
BYRNE

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